

09/20/21 Monday

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Climate Change-Driven Cyclones Could be Regular Sights in Europe in 30-50 Years,
Meteorologist Warns
By - Morgan Artyukhina

As global warming brings up the temperature of ocean waters, tropical cyclones will endanger areas of the planet further and further from the tropics, including Europe, a Dutch meteorologist has warned months after devastating floods killed scores in nearby countries.

"There is research out there suggesting that we are going to see more hurricane-force storms which were once tropical cyclones and have moved into Europe," meteorologist Nadia Bloemendaal, a researcher at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, told [Euro News on Monday](#).

"Climate change is the fuel for the tropical cyclone," she warned. "If we are going to have water that is 30 degrees Celsius, that's a lot of fuel for tropical cyclones to keep going and keep intensifying."

According to the researcher, her models indicate that in the next 30 to 50 years, sea temperatures in northern coastal regions could hit 27 degree Celsius, which is warm enough to drive the creation of tropical cyclones.

At present, there are only a couple of places on Earth where [tropical cyclones can form](#), owing to a necessary combination of balmy sea water and favorable wind patterns; the Atlantic Ocean, it's a cone-shaped area north of the equator extending westward from Africa toward Mexico and the southern United States. However, a rare hurricane has been known to form elsewhere, such as [Hurricane Vince](#) in 2005, which uniquely formed near the Azores and traveled northeastward, becoming the first tropical storm to ever make landfall on the Iberian peninsula.

Typically, however, the hurricanes impact Caribbean islands or North America, then their remnants swing to the north and east, weakening into post-tropical storms as they close in on Europe, where they bring destructive wind and rain. However, with warmer seas, the convection that drives them could stay active longer, meaning the storms could stay stronger, too.

In North America, the effects of global warming-strengthened storms are already being felt.

[Hurricane Ida](#), which made landfall on the Louisiana coastline last month as a powerful Category 4 storm, experienced sudden rapid intensification over the ultra-warm waters immediately off the coast, meaning it hit land at peak intensity. After traveling nearly a thousand miles over land and crossing the low Appalachian mountain range, Ida was still a strong enough storm to cause catastrophic flooding in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, and New York City, and spawn several tornadoes.

Europe, too, has been hit by destructive flooding that scientists say was likely made worse by climate change. Heavy rains caused floods that [killed 220 people](#) in Germany and Belgium in mid-July, with some areas getting more rain in a single day than they typically do in an entire month. According to researchers with the World Weather Attribution (WWA) project, warming

temperatures increased the intensity of daily extreme rainfall by between 3% and 19%, creating this supposed once-in-400-years event.

"These floods have shown us that even developed countries are not safe from severe impacts of extreme weather that we have seen and known to get worse with climate change," Friederike Otto, associate director of the Environmental Change Institute at the University of Oxford, [told CNN](#) in late August. "This is an urgent global challenge and we need to step up to it. The science is clear and has been for years."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Multiple Injuries' Reported in Shooting at Virginia High School

By - Morgan Artyukhina

According to local reports, at least two people have been shot in an "incident" at a high school in southern Virginia.

Local news outlet [WAVY reported](#) Monday that two people had been rushed to the hospital with gunshot wounds following an altercation at Heritage High School in Newport News, Virginia. Newport News Police told reporters that the wounds were not believed to be life-threatening. Both victims were 17 years old, one boy shot in the face and one girl shot in the leg, both of whom are believed to have known the perpetrator prior to the shooting. Police also said they don't believe any other students were targeted.

Police haven't given information about the number of suspects or their characteristics, but they dismissed reports of active shooters remaining on the school campus. Photos posted on social media showed a swarm of police officers, as well as a large number of students and staff, outside the front entrance.

According to a [reporter with local ABC](#) affiliate 13 News Now, another student is believed to have a broken arm, which likely resulted from the scramble to evacuate, and another student has been hospitalized after suffering an asthma attack during the incident.

School administrators are evacuating students to nearby tennis courts, where police are allowing parents to pick up their children.

Despite its name, the high school also includes middle school students from a nearby school that was torn down and in the process of being rebuilt.

As American students have returned to school for the fall 2021 semester after a school year of shutdowns and hybrid learning schemes to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the epidemic of [school shootings](#) has come back as well. According to [Education Week](#), 15 such incidents have happened in 2021, more than the 10 that happened in 2020 but not yet approaching the number of 2019, when 25 school shootings were reported.

Earlier on Wednesday, another shooting occurred at Russia's [Perm State University](#) in the central Ural region. According to Russia's Ministry of Health, six people were killed and 24 were wounded, 19 of them with gunshot wounds. Video posted during the incident showed dozens of students leaping from second-story windows to escape.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Mali Looks for 'Plan B' to 'Bolster Our National Defense' As French Mission Exits, Leaving Chaos

By - Morgan Artyukhina

As France ends its military cooperation with Mali, the Sahelian nation is looking for help fighting Daesh* and other militant groups. While Interim Prime Minister Choguel Maïga named no country, Western journalists and academics have decided Bamako is secretly preparing a new deal with a Russian military group.

[Speaking to the press](#) on Saturday, Maïga said Mali must "broaden our potential for cooperation to bolster our national defence" after its international partners "altered their policy" or "have decided to leave Mali to withdraw to other countries."

"If partners have decided to leave certain areas, if they decide to leave tomorrow - what do we do?" Maiga asked. "Should we not have a plan B?"

"There are zones that are abandoned that need to be occupied today so they're not left empty. There are not enough troops," he added.

His comments were an indirect response to a [report by Reuters](#) last week claiming "a deal is close" between the interim Malian government, which is dominated by the military but also contains civilian groups, and the Wagner Group, which the news agency falsely claims is tied to the Russian government.

The Reuters report cited several unnamed sources, and even admitted it "could not confirm independently" any of the reports it nonetheless published as factual and billed as "exclusive." Their requests for comment by the Malian government were similarly rebuffed as rumors unworthy of a reply.

Speaking at a [press conference on Friday](#), Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, said it was "critical that any partnership be carried out in full respect for human rights and international humanitarian law."

"As UN, we do not interfere in sovereign prerogatives," he said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves [Le Drian told reporters](#) last week that "Wagner is a militia that has shown itself in the past in Syria and Central African Republic to have carried out abuses and all sorts of violations that do not correspond with any solution, and so it is incompatible with our presence."

French Colonial and Neo-Colonial Wars

Paris [decided to cancel](#) its longtime training program with the CAR military earlier this year, claiming the government had failed on its commitments by increasing its cooperation with Russia. Several hundred military advisors have been training CAR forces, but Western media have [claimed without evidence](#) that Wagner Group mercenaries are rampaging across the country, and are blaming Moscow for it. While nearly a decade of training by French and European Union troops has yielded little appreciable benefits to the CAR's fighting ability, they have boasted of a spike in success since Russian instructors took over.

However, Paris has also decided to [cancel its military cooperation](#) with the interim government in Mali for reasons unrelated to conversations between Bamako and Moscow. In May, now-Interim President Col. Assimi Goïta mounted his second coup d'état in less than a year, arresting the interim president, prime minister, and defense minister and forcing their resignation after a cabinet reshuffle reduced the balance of power of the interim government in favor of civilian parties. Other international partners also backed away from cooperation with the government, including the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) trade bloc. Maïga, [who was appointed](#) after the coup, is from the June 5 Movement - Gathering of Patriotic Forces (M5-RFP), an umbrella political alliance of civilian parties that led the mass protests in the summer of 2020 against then-President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, who the military forced from office that August. The interim government has promised to return to democracy by holding elections in February 2022.

Shortly after the May 2021 putsch, French President Emmanuel Macron announced Operation Barkhane was over and would be replaced by a smaller, more carefully defined mission, dubbed the [Takuba Task Force](#), which will operate primarily in the tri-border area between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso. The end of both the CAR mission and of Barkhane were announced shortly after Macron unveiled his 2022 reelection campaign amid [flagging popularity](#).

The French presence in Mali has long been reviled by the public. Invaded by French forces in the late 19th century, Mali became part of the French Sudan colony, although anti-colonial resistance continued. The irrigable land was used for cotton and nut plantationing, while forced labor by Malians was used across the Empire. The country became independent in 1958. More recently, a military coup in 2012 allowed Touareg tribes in the country's north to take over much of the country, after which the government appealed to Paris for aid. The anti-rebel mission became Barkhane, a War on Terror-style conflict run from N'Djamena, Chad, and waged across five countries. Much like the US' War on Terror, France has become known for [bombing weddings](#) instead of terrorist camps, as well as generally failing to subdue the insurgency. [Mass protests](#) in both France and Mali have demanded French forces leave. As [Sputnik has reported](#), the three coups in 2012, 2020 and 2021 were all carried out by troops trained by US Africa Command, an institution with a long list of coups across the continent carried out by troops with whom it has worked.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Launches Air Strike on 'Senior al-Qaeda Leader' in Idlib, Syria
By - Morgan Artyukhina

The Pentagon announced on Monday it had carried out an airstrike against a senior leader of Al-Qaeda* located in Idlib Governorate, the northern Syrian province occupied by Turkish troops and radical Muslim rebel militias.

"US forces conducted a kinetic counterterrorism strike near Idlib, Syria, today, on a senior al-Qaeda leader. Initial indications are that we struck the individual we were aiming for, and

there are no indications of civilian casualties as a result of the strike," Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby said on Monday.

Kirby said he had no further details on the target's identity, but [according to SITE](#) Intelligence Group, media chatter by Syrian rebel groups suggests the strike killed Abu al-Bara' al-Tunisi and Abu Hamza al-Yemeni, two fighters with Tanzim Hurras ad-Din (Guardians of Religion Organization), a militia in northern Syria that is aligned with al-Qaeda.

Idlib remains the last major outpost of radical Sunni militias in rebellion against the Syria government. The dominant rebel force is Hay'at Tahrir ash-Sham (Levant Liberation Committee), which formed in 2017 as a merger between Al-Nusra Front* and several other similar militias. Al-Nusra was also known as Al-Qaeda in Syria. Hurras ad-Din, the group rumored to have been targeted by the Monday strike, split from HTS in 2016, believing it to have deviated from al-Qaeda's ideology.

The US long [supported al-Nusra](#) and other so-called "moderate rebels" during the Syrian Civil War, believing they would overthrow the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Speaking last month after the Taliban* captured the Afghan capital of Kabul and the US-backed Afghan government had collapsed, US President Joe Biden said the 20-year-long War on Terror that began with the US invasion of Afghanistan in 2001 was not yet over, and that the threat of al-Qaeda had ["metastasized" elsewhere](#), naming Syria as one theater of operations that would continue.

One airstrike during the final days of the US withdrawal from Afghanistan has drawn global condemnation after it was revealed the strike [targeted a civilian vehicle](#) and not a bomb-laden car driven by Daesh* militants en route to attack US forces. The strike killed 10 civilians, seven of whom were children. US Central Command (CENTCOM) commander Gen. Frank McKenzie called the strike a "mistake" and said the Pentagon was investigating it. CENTCOM also oversees US operations in Syria.

The US also maintains an occupation force of 900 troops in eastern Syria, where it has garrisoned several of Syria's oil fields, the products of which are exported eastward through Iraq by truck instead of westward along existing gas lines, where the Syrian government would be able to sell it. Their presence is ostensibly in support of Kurdish militias who are continuing to fight Daesh* remnants in the region. The Russian Foreign Ministry, which supports the Syrian government in its fight against rebel forces, recently denounced the ongoing presence of US troops in Syria as a ["de facta partition"](#) of the country, preventing reunification and reconstruction.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Premier League Goals of the Weekend
By -Nevin Brown

Matchweek five in the Premier League saw Liverpool, Chelsea, and Manchester United maintain their deadlock atop the table. While the top of the table is a three-team tie, these are the top three goals, plus an honorable mention, of the Premier League weekend.

Honorable Mention: Jesse Lingard - Manchester United

Jesse Lingard's late winner against West Ham was a brilliant individual goal that more than made up for his mid-week error in the Champions League. Marked by Kurt Zouma, Lingard received the ball just inside the 18-yard box and cut in on his favored right foot. A burst of pace gave him just enough time and space to get a shot off as three West Ham defenders converged upon him like a Bermuda Triangle of defensive futility. He whipped the ball into the top corner as the goalkeeper collapsed to the ground in a heap of misery. While this was certainly the goal of the game, Lingard would be outdone, mere minutes later, on the other end by his goalkeeper, David De Gea, who saved a penalty to preserve the lead.

Goal #3: Martin Odegaard - Arsenal

The third best goal of the weekend came from the left foot of Martin Odegaard. His sweet free-kick was the only goal of the game, and gave Arsenal the victory over Burnley. If you just watched the shot, it looked like the work of Lionel Messi, which stands as the highest compliment a player can receive. Arsenal needs to hope Odegaard has more brilliance if they want to make a charge for a European spot.

Goal #2: Naby Keita - Liverpool

Naby Keita came on for Thiago Alcantara in the 63rd minute to help Liverpool protect a 1-0 lead over Crystal Palace. 15 minutes later Mohamad Salah would double Liverpool's lead, but it was Keita's strike in the 88th minute that takes the cake. Off of a cleared corner, Keita struck a wondrous left-footed volley from outside the box that even seemed to surprise himself. The celebration is a highlight all on its own, as Keita squints in disbelief while his teammates swarm him.

Goal #1: Raphina - Leeds

The goal of the weekend technically didn't happen over the weekend, as it came during Friday night's 1-1 battle between Leeds and Newcastle. From an impossibly deep distance, the left-footed Raphina cut in from the right-wing and swung a ball into the box to the streaking Rodrigo. Rodrigo performed a leaping dummy, leaving the goalie rooted to the spot. The ball played in by Raphina had so much spin that upon landing, it darted into the bottom corner. The goal was as improbable as it was beautiful. It was as individual as it was a team effort. It was matchweek five's goal of the weekend.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

**Coronavirus Death Toll Surpasses 1918 Influenza to Become Deadliest Pandemic in US History
By - Nevin Brown**

The flu pandemic from 1918 to 1919 killed about 675,000 people in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The coronavirus pandemic is officially the deadliest pandemic in American history, ending the unofficial reign of the 1918 influenza pandemic.

According to the John Hopkins' coronavirus resource center, the United States has crept [past the 675,000](#) coronavirus death mark. That number is important because 675,000 is the estimate for the total number of deaths due to the 1918 influenza pandemic.

[According to the CDC](#), deaths from the coronavirus pandemic are projected to increase in the coming weeks, and the 700,000 death mark could be hit before 2022.

While the coronavirus pandemic has been more deadly than the 1918 influenza pandemic in raw numbers, when the context is taken into account, it might not be considered as deadly.

In 1918, the US population was around 100 million. Today, it stands at close to 330 million.

675,000 deaths in 1918 was 0.675% of the total population, compared to 0.205% in 2021. The influenza pandemic led to nearly 200,000 deaths in just October of 1918 alone. The 'Spanish flu,' as it was dubbed, came in like a wrecking ball.

There is also the reality that the 675,000 deaths from influenza [is, at best, a rough estimate](#).

Close to a quarter of the US population lived in states or territories that didn't report numbers.

Medical science made it more difficult to determine what truly was the cause of death. There are enough problems with the number 675,000 to call it simply an estimate.

The US could have passed the real count months ago, or it could be months away.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Discovery of Bats With Close Sars-CoV-2 Relative Add More Evidence to Natural Origins of COVID-19

By - Nevin Brown

The researchers studied bats from four different limestone caves in Laos with coronaviruses that featured incredible similarities to Sars-CoV-2. The discovery is a massive step in proving that COVID-19 originated in nature and not in a lab.

A research team in Laos [has discovered](#) a bat with a Sars-CoV-2-like receptor-binding domain allowing ACE2-mediated entry into human cells.

While the team did not find SARS-CoV-2 in any of the bats, they found coronaviruses that were small mutations away from it.

"Sequences very close to those of the early strains of SARS-CoV-2 responsible for the pandemic exist in nature, and are found in several Rhinolophus bat species," the authors wrote. The study does not completely rule out the lab leak theory, but it does add further evidence that SARS-CoV-2 originated in nature. The idea that a 'smoking bat' with SARS-CoV-2 will be found remains a popular idea, but scientists have always cautioned against that line of thinking.

Professor Stuart Neil, head of the department of infectious diseases at King's College London – who was not involved in the study – told The Telegraph that "I'm not confident we'll ever find something the same, but what we are going to find is viruses with bits that are almost the same."

"It's an incredibly complex ecosystem and whether we luck out and find the right one, or whether just in bits, will be an open question," he added.

The discovery also highlights that another coronavirus-like pandemic lays dormant in nature. As the list of coronaviruses with similar qualities as SARS-Cov-2 grows, it furthers the need to study the virus more to be ready for the next pandemic.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Global Stock Markets Plunge as Chinese Giant Evergrande Faces Mountain of Debt
By - Nevin Brown

There is, however, a key difference in China's real estate market that makes it unlikely that it will plunge the global economy into a recession.

On Monday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 701 points, 2.04%, as concerns over Chinese property giant Evergrande Properties' ability to make debt payments. The S&P 500 and the NASDAQ also saw larger than 2% drops.

The plunging stock market [wasn't just contained](#) to the United States.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng index plummeted 3.3%, Germany's DAX 30 dropped 2.31%, France's CAC 40 slumped 1.74% and Britain's FTSE 100 leaked 0.86%. 2021 has seen the [stock market post steady growth](#), but a collapse from Evergrande and the ensuing ramifications could see some of those gains undone.

Evergrande Properties stock sank by as much as 19% on Monday, and it brought other Chinese companies along for the ride, with some comparing the ripple effect [to the 2009 financial crisis](#). However, there is a significant cultural difference between American and Chinese homebuyers. In China, it is far more common for homebuyers to purchase their homes outright. While a collapse from Evergrande could leave these homebuyers shouldering a major loss, it prevents their collapse from dragging banks and the entire economy down with them. The question still remains, how did a company that as recently as 2018 was [deemed the world's most valuable real estate company](#) come to the precipice of financial ruin?

Evergrande Properties is [ranked 122 on Fortune's top 500 companies](#) list. As one of China's largest developers, it has experienced explosive growth since its founding in 1996. Starting in 2010, the company blossomed into one of China's most dynamic real estate developers. To do so, the company borrowed heavily to fund its projects and consistently faced a mountain of debt.

With China's economy continuing to grow at a rapid pace, they were always able to stay one step ahead of their creditors until two things happened as the 2010s gave way to the 2020s. The first was the coronavirus pandemic hurting the global economy and the second was [Beijing's desire to reign in lending for development](#). The downtick in demand punctuated by a loss to easy credit meant that the company was facing the reality of needing to raise more funds just as consumer demand abated.

Evergrande's near-collapse has been a long time coming. The company's [stock has fallen 81%](#) since the beginning of 2021. However, Evergrande isn't the only company in China's property sector that has been hurting. In the first half of 2020, [228 real estate companies went bust in](#)

[China](#). While these were primarily in smaller Chinese cities, the fact that a real estate giant like Evergrande is buckling could spell doom for the sector as 2022 approaches.

If Evergrande isn't able to repay its creditors and goes bust, how the Chinese government handles the situation could become paramount. It is estimated that 78% of urban Chinese wealth is tied up in residential property.

If Beijing rescues the firm, it could ease the fears of a Chinese economic downturn hurting the global market. However, if Evergrande is left to flounder, it [could leave 1.5 million people](#) who have already purchased properties currently under development out in the cold, as well as send China's real estate market and its economy in a downward spiral.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'Go Back to Mexico': Shocking Video of US Border Patrol on Horseback Seen Whipping Haitian Refugees

By - Adriana Montes

Hundreds of Haitian migrants have been camping under a bridge on the Mexico-Texas border, enduring insanitary conditions and sweltering heat.

Rep. Julian Castro (R-TX) executive advisor Sawyer Hackett called out the administration through a tweet sharing a graphic video, where mounted US Border Patrol agents are seen chasing and whipping Haitian migrants — menacingly, as they try to cross the Rio Grande near Del Rios, Texas.

As the Haitians tried to climb onto the US side of the river Sunday afternoon, an agent was heard shouting: "Let's go! Get out now! Go back to Mexico!"

"Border patrol is mounted on horseback rounding up Haitian refugees with whips. This is unfathomable cruelty towards people fleeing disaster and political ruin. The administration must stop this," Hackett shared in the tweet.

In the tense video, a migrant is seen falling as he tries to dodge the horse, as others shield their heads with their hands.

Warning: the following footage is disturbing and may offend sensibilities

After a few minutes the agents retreated and allowed the migrants to return to the camp, where over 10,000 are waiting to be granted entrance.

The migrants, mostly from Haiti, [have been migrating](#) to the US from South America in desperate need of asylum from the United States government, many having left their Caribbean home after the recent devastating earthquake that wrecked Haiti.

Immigration and human rights lawyer Qasim Rashid also shared a tweet Monday morning implying that the correct way to legally seek asylum is to cross the border and ask for it. He said blocking asylum seekers violates American law.

"@CBP is whipping Haitian refugees seeking asylum. This is both grotesquely inhumane & also illegal. Seeking asylum is a human right. It is accomplished by crossing the border and asking for asylum. Blocking asylum seekers violates American law", he [tweeted](#).

When President Biden took office, he granted humanitarian protection for Haitians in the United States already living in the US due to conditions in Haiti, including political unrest and natural disasters.

The Biden administration announced on Saturday that it would swiftly [begin deporting](#) all Haitians migrants from their Southern border camp.

US officials have stepped up security at the border and started flying migrants out of the area, some to Haiti.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

'I Got Chills': Travel Blogger Finds Video of Gaby Petito's Van

By - Adriana Montes

The video, which was shared on social media and YouTube by travel bloggers Jenn and Kyle Bethuane, was captured in Grand Teton National Park on August 27 between the hours of 6 and 6:30 p.m.

A critical clue in the search of Gaby Petito's whereabouts came from bloggers known as "Red White & Bethune," after sharing a video on early Sunday that is said to show the van that Gabby Petito and her fiancé, Brian Laundrie, were traveling in at the time of her reported disappearance.

In the 14 minute [video](#) shared on YouTube, Jenn and Kyle Bethuane said that they were driving through this long gravel road when they encountered the estranged white van that had Florida license plates.

Bethune told Insider in an interview on Sunday that the reason why they noticed the van was because she and her husband were from Florida and the van had Florida plates.

"We were going to stop and say hi, but the van was very dark... no activity, so we ended up just... driving," Bethune said.

Bethuane added that the park was very full that day, and that each of these dispersed camping sites were tucked away in between trees, making it almost impossible to notice anything abnormal.

"It was for sure normal," Bethune said. "It's dispersed camping land, so anybody can camp there, and it is totally normal to see vans. There are thousands of those particular vans out West."

Bethune said that she was tagged in a story on Saturday evening that asked anyone that was at the Grand Teton National Park on the day of August 27 to look back at any photo or video footage that could assist or provide any clues to the FBI in the whereabouts of Gabby Petito.

"I just got chills all over my body and ran straight back to my laptop and got my GoPro footage," recalled Bethuane.

The video, which shows a white van that appears identical to photos of the 2012 Ford Transit van that Gabby and Brian were traveling in, was captured on a GoPro camera atop the Bethune family's converted 1983 Silver Eagle Bus, she said.

Bethune said she spoke to Gabby's mother after turning in her footage to law enforcement and described their conversation as beautiful.

"Just two moms, really just have a great cry."

FBI officials said at a press conference Sunday evening that they found human remains that are ["consistent with the description"](#) of 22-year old Petito in the Grand Teton National Park in

Wyoming, where authorities have been searching.

Officials have not yet confirmed the identity through DNA testing. The time and cause of death are still unknown.

"Full forensic identification has not been completed to confirm 100% that we found Gabby, but her family has been notified of this discovery," said Charles Jones, FBI Denver's supervisory senior resident agent in Wyoming.

Jen Bethune reacted to the news, saying it was heartwarming to at least be able to help bring closure to the Petito family despite the tragic finding.

"I am so sad that we couldn't bring her back alive, but to be able to bring her back home to her family, or to help with that, is everything," Bethune told Insider.

Another reported sighting was made by traveler Shannon Baker, who said she and her husband saw the van while driving through the Jenny Lake area of Grand Teton on August 25, the last day that Petito's family is said to have spoken with Gaby.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Mayorkas Says DHS to Investigate Abuse of Migrants at US Border Swiftly

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – The US government will swiftly investigate reports of abuse of the mostly Haitian migrants at the nation's border, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said on Tuesday.

"We have a directed investigation, this investigation is underway and it will be conducted swiftly," Mayorkas told CNN, adding that any mistreat or abuse of a migrant is unacceptable and contradicts US values and border patrol policy.

Nearly 13,000 migrants, mostly from Haiti, arrived to the Texas border town of Del Rio along the US-Mexico border over the last week. The migrants waited to be processed in a makeshift camp under an overpass bridge. The situation forced the federal government to shut down the Del Rio port of entry, which still remains closed.

Many videos from the ground appear to show law enforcement officers on horseback aggressively pushing migrants, prompting Mayorkas to decry the evidence.

"We are very troubled by what we have seen. We are going to let the investigation unfold very quickly, determine the facts, and then we will take the action that is appropriate based on those facts," he said.

The secretary went to say that up to 4,000 migrants have already been moved from under the bridge and they are being processed at a fast rate to ensure the safety of the local community.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

EU to Provide Minimal Presence in Kabul, Keep Stance on Taliban Gov't As Illegitimate

MOSCOW, September 20 (Sputnik) - The European Union said on Tuesday that it will keep a minimal presence in the Afghan capital of Kabul for the humanitarian needs of the population, and refuses to recognize the legitimacy of the Taliban (a terrorist organization, banned in Russia) cabinet.

"A minimal EU presence on the ground in Kabul, dependent on the security situation, would facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and monitoring of the humanitarian situation, and could also coordinate and support the safe, secure and orderly departure of all foreign nationals, and Afghans who wish to leave the country," a statement read.

The EU member states will pursue careful joint policies in Afghanistan in regard with the recently-appointed Taliban government, the statement went on, adding that they "will not bestow any legitimacy on it."

The bloc will assess the actions of the interim Afghan government in line with the five conditions adopted by the member states in early September, the statement noted. They include respect for human rights, particularly women's rights, the rule of law, and freedom of the media as well as the formation of "an inclusive and representative transitional government" among a other conditions.

Last week, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that Brussels had no choice but to engage with the Taliban-backed government, adding that the interaction does not mean the recognition of the regime.

Over a month ago the militants of the radical movement entered Kabul, and several weeks later obtained control over the last standing Afghan province of Panjshir, completing a large-scale offensive across Afghanistan. As international troops withdrew from the country and foreign evacuations were completed, the Taliban unveiled the composition of the all-male interim cabinet, headed Mohammad Hasan Akhund, former foreign minister during the Taliban rule, who has been under UN sanctions since 2001.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Housing Starts Up 17% in Year to August in Supply-Starved Market - Commerce Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - US housing starts grew more than 17% in the year to August while permits issued for new construction also rose double-digits, the Commerce Department said on Tuesday, signaling efforts by builders to put up more homes in a supply-starved market.

"Privately-owned housing starts in August were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,615,000," the department said in a statement. "This is 3.9% above the revised July estimate of 1,554,000 and is 17.4% above the August 2020 rate of 1,376,000."

Housing starts refer to the number of new residential construction projects that begin during any particular month.

Economists polled by US media had projected August housing starts to come in just slightly better at 1.55 million versus July's 1.53 million.

The Commerce Department said permits issued for new construction totaled 1,728,000 in August, up 6% from July's tally of 1,630,000 and 13.5% higher than the August 2020 figure of 1,522,000.

Authorizations for highly-sought single-family homes grew by 1,054,000 in August, about 0.6% higher than the revised July figure of 1,048,000.

"Both housing starts and building permits rebounded in the month of August," economist Greg Michalowski said in a comment posted on ForexLive that noted efforts by builders to ramp up supply in a red-hot housing market.

The stronger building activity comes as the Biden administration vowed earlier this month to tackle America's housing crisis of overpriced and undersupplied homes by adding at least 100,000 new and affordable units over the next three years.

Housing shortages have become dire since the financial crisis of 2008 and last year's coronavirus outbreak.

Decades of underbuilding have left the United States with a 6.8-million-home deficit, the National Association of Realtors said. While construction has steadily increased, it's still well below the levels needed to match supply with demand.

The median selling price for existing homes in the United States rose 17.8% in July from a year earlier to hit a record high of \$359,900, according to the realtors' association. Prices jumped especially after the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020 as investment firms rushed to snap up properties at low prices and earn steady incomes from rent. The trend accelerated as more institutional investors started buying rapidly appreciating homes, further eroding affordability.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RPT: PREVIEW - UN General Assembly Convenes Tuesday In New York City for Week of High-Level Debates

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - The UN Headquarters opens its doors on Tuesday for many world leaders and top officials coming in-person to New York City for the annual high-level General Assembly week.

More than 100 top countries' officials are expected to participate in the UN gathering this year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which in 2020, forced the event into a fully virtual format.

The first day of the general debate will see the visit of US President Joe Biden, accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The US leader is scheduled to deliver his national address after Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, whose country has earned the right to open the debate for always volunteering to speak first during the UN's early years.

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, Biden will convene a virtual conference on September 22 focused on scaling up international response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, world leaders will also convene for a ministerial summit dubbed "Safeguarding the achievements of 20 years of international engagement in Afghanistan." The situation in the country has been a priority issue on the United Nations' agenda since the Taliban (banned in Russia) swept to power in mid-August.

The list of the General Assembly's in-person participants on Tuesday also includes Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Qatari Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, South Korean leader Moon Jae-in and Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, scheduled to speak on the first day of the general debate as well, will do so through pre-recorded video messages to be broadcast in the General Assembly Hall.

On Wednesday, the leaders of Venezuela, Tunisia, Jordan and Ukraine, among many others, will deliver their remarks at the United Nations in person.

The following days of the general debate will welcome high-level participants from Libya, Israel, Lebanon, Germany, Palestine, Japan, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Australia, India, Canada, Haiti, Iraq, Belarus, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, arriving in New York this week, will address the General Assembly on Saturday, September 25.

During his visit, the top Russian diplomat will take part in the ministerial Wednesday meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - which will be attended by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The UN chief and Lavrov had already agreed to hold a bilateral meeting on the margins of the General Assembly later this week.

The Russian Foreign Minister will also participate in a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on climate and security that will take place on Thursday.

Amid public concerns over the potential of the high-level week to become a COVID-19 super-spreader event, the United States, as the host country, has offered to set up a COVID-19 testing and vaccination site upon the entry to the United Nations.

The City of New York had issued a requirement last week ordering all delegates who try to access the UN General Assembly Hall to show proof of vaccination.

The order provoked concerns by some member states regarding their ability to participate in one of the most significant diplomatic gatherings in a year given that not all countries have been able to procure COVID-19 vaccines or utilize the ones authorized in the United States.

Security on Manhattan's east side is tight as the New York Police Department has closed the streets and constructed security checkpoints around the UN compound. The measures are expected to cause a major gridlock in New York, the first of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic silenced the city.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RPT - Next Step in Yaroshenko Case May Include Moscow Request Under Transfer Convention - Lawyer

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The next step in the case of Russian national Konstantin Yaroshenko, who is serving a prison sentence in the United States, may include a request by Moscow to transfer him to Russia under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Yaroshenko's lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik.

"I think the next stage, if something is going to happen, it maybe a request by the Russian government to have Yaroshenko transferred under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons," Tarasov said after a US federal court denied Yaroshenko's motion for compassionate release on Monday.

Tarasov said the US court's decision has a broader impact because it also undermines an opportunity to effectuate a possible exchange of prisoners between Russia and the United States on humanitarian basis.

"The judge concluded that none of the medical issues that Yaroshenko experiences have been listed by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as causing or likely to cause an increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness," he said.

Tarasov noted that Yaroshenko filed the motion at the end of 2020.

"There is not much that we can do at this stage. The decision is to deny and that means that Yaroshenko has no opportunity to return to his homeland based on the risk of COVID-19," he said.

Tarasov also said the US court pointed out in its decision that Yaroshenko's case was one of the largest narcotics operations they have seen.

The lawyer said he spoke with Yaroshenko last week and said he was not feeling well in part because of the uncertainty of what may happen to him in addition to his medical issues.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said after the summit with his US counterpart Joe Biden earlier this year that they raised the issue of prisoner exchange as an area in which compromises could be found between Russia and the United States.

Yaroshenko was arrested in Liberia in 2010 on suspicion of drug trafficking and was later extradited to the United States. In 2011, a US court sentenced Yaroshenko to 20 years in prison for allegedly taking part in a conspiracy to smuggle a large amount of drugs into the United States. Yaroshenko pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

RPT - Martyshev Spent 3 Weeks in Confinement in US After Illicit Item Found in Cell - Lawyer

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – Russian national Yuriy Martyshev, jailed in the United States on charges of computer hacking, had to spend about three weeks in solitary confinement after prison authorities found a prohibited item in his cell, Martyshev's lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik.

"There was an issue in the facility where Martyshev was recently placed into segregation over allegations of disciplinary infractions," Tarasov said on Monday.

The incident took place over a month ago, the authorities found a flash drive or a card for a mobile phone, the lawyer explained.

"Obviously no indication that this item has ever belonged to him or was ever utilized," he added. The issue has been resolved and did not have significant impact on Martyshev's psychological state, Tarasov noted. "He is in a good mood and hopeful to be released next year," he explained.

In April 2019, a US federal court sentenced Martyshev to 78 months in jail on charges of computer hacking.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada's Liberals Grab Early Lead as First Results From National Election Come In

TORONTO, September 20 (Sputnik) - Canada's Liberals have grabbed the early lead in the country's 44th national election as the first polls close, according to official results.

The Liberals currently lead in 24 ridings mostly across Atlantic Canada - a traditional Liberal stronghold - leading the Conservatives, who are ahead in 9 ridings, and the Bloc Quebecois which has an early lead in one of Quebec's electoral districts, with around one percent of the votes counted.

In the early stages, the Liberals are commanding 42.8 percent of support, followed by the Tories with 34.0 percent.

Voting began at 8:30 a.m. local time (11:00 a.m. GMT) on Monday in Newfoundland and Labrador and will come to a close in British Columbia at 7:00 p.m. local time (2:00 a.m. GMT). All 338 of Canada's House of Commons seats will be up for grabs with the winner of the election declared based on a contentious first-past-the-post system, where candidates with the highest number of votes win without any further runoff ballots. At least 170 seats are needed to form a majority government, although most projections currently point to a minority government. The race comes down to sitting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Conservative leader Erin O'Toole, with most projections showing the Liberals and Tories locked in a tight battle, although some pollsters are indicating that the incumbent Liberals are pulling away.

CANADA'S ELECTION FRONTRUNNERS CAST BALLOTS, ENCOURAGE TURNOUT

Canada's election frontrunners, Trudeau and O'Toole, cast their ballots earlier in the day and encouraged other Canadians to follow suit on Twitter.

Trudeau, the country's 23rd prime minister, was accompanied by his three children as he cast his ballot in his home riding of Papineau in Montreal, Quebec.

Meanwhile, O'Toole, in the presence of his wife, cast his vote in Bowmanville, Ontario, which is an hour's drive from Toronto.

Much of the parties' success depends on their ability to "get out the vote," or GOTV, which is a push to get potential voters – on party mailing lists and other internal data – to the polls on election day, who otherwise would stay home for a variety of reasons.

A record 5.78 million Canadians cast early ballots, representing an 18.46% increase in advance voting when compared to 2019, Elections Canada said. Additionally, the commission has issued 1,267,014 special ballots of which 951,039 have been mailed back, meaning that more than a quarter of approximately 28 million voters have already cast their ballot.

CANADIANS SAY ELECTION 'COULD HAVE WAITED' BUT FEEL OBLIGATION TO MAKE VOICE HEARD

Throughout the election Trudeau was dogged by questions about the necessity of a federal election while the country faces a range of domestic and international challenges, including the fourth wave of the coronavirus pandemic and the messy evacuation from Afghanistan.

Voters in one Toronto-area voting district told Sputnik that the election could have been delayed but still felt obligated to exercise their civic duty to vote.

"I think we maybe could have waited a year, but it is what it is," Kamlesh, a voter from the riding of Mississauga Center, told Sputnik, emphasizing that it is his civic duty to vote.

Kamlesh's sentiment was echoed by other voters Sputnik spoke with, including Carol Li and Samira Munawar.

As the country labors through another wave of the pandemic, most voters identified the COVID-19 response as their top issue.

Kamlesh said his top priorities include ensuring that all Canadians are vaccinated – vaccination and vaccination mandates became a hotly contested wedge issue in a testy campaign – and maintaining support for businesses devastated by the pandemic.

"Being historically working for the healthcare system... I just wanted to ensure that my vote counted for the platform I believe in that would support healthcare," Li said.

In a campaign where Canadians were increasingly speaking out "against" policies, issues, parties and candidates as opposed to advocating for positive change, those Sputnik spoke with said they were voting "for" something.

"For something," Li said, explaining that resource allocation for the healthcare system remains her top priority.

While voters were split on the need for change or maintaining the status quo, all stressed the need for the country to unite after a campaign where emotions boiled over on several occasions, including unruly protests at Trudeau's campaign stops.

"I think people should make peace," Munawar said.

"We don't want to be like our neighbors down south," Kamlesh added, emphasizing the need for Canada's political parties to work together when the next government forms. Li said bringing the country together comes down to "reinforcing what [Canadians'] common ground is."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada's Liberals Grab Early Lead With 1% of Vote Counted – Elections Commission

TORONTO, September 20 (Sputnik) - Canada's governing Liberal Party led by Justin Trudeau has grabbed the early lead in the country's 44th national election with 1 percent of the vote counted, according to official results.

The Liberals currently lead in 24 ridings mostly across Atlantic Canada – a traditional Liberal stronghold – leading the Conservatives, who are ahead in 9 ridings, and the Bloc Quebecois which has an early lead in one of Quebec's electoral districts. In the early stages, the Liberals are commanding 42.8 percent of support, followed by the Tories with 34.0 percent.

All 338 of Canada's House of Commons seats are up for grabs with the winner of the election declared based on a contentious first-past-the-post system, where candidates with the highest number of votes win without any further runoff ballots. At least 170 seats are needed to form a majority government, although most projections currently point to a minority government.

The race comes down to sitting Prime Minister Trudeau and Conservative leader Erin O'Toole, with most projections showing the Liberals and Tories locked in a tight battle, although some pollsters are indicating that the incumbent Liberals are pulling away.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE - Biden Meets Guterres, Underscores Need for Cooperation at UN to Ensure Security, Peace

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden during remarks alongside UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres conveyed the need for world governments to work together to ensure prosperity and security for everyone.

The US president arrived in New York's JFK airport on Tuesday at around 5:00 p.m. local time (9:00 p.m. GMT) on Monday, according to the White House pool, before arriving at the Intercontinental Hotel in Manhattan about an hour later.

"Today governments must continue to work together on a system built on international law to deliver equitable prosperity, peace and security for everyone," Biden said on Monday ahead of his meeting with the UN chief.

The meeting with Guterres was the first item on Biden's agenda as he participates in the UN General Assembly's High-Level Week.

Biden and Guterres are expected to discuss Afghanistan, Yemen, the COVID-19 pandemic, and climate change during their bilateral Monday evening.

Biden is expected to deliver a speech at the high-level UNGA week on Tuesday morning. He is scheduled to provide his national address after Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, whose country has earned the right to open the debate.

White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said Biden plans to make clear during his speech that the United States is not seeking a confrontation with China and any other country.

On Wednesday, Biden will invite world leaders to participate in COVID-19 summit on the margins of the UNGA meeting. The leaders will discuss opportunities of cooperation to defeat the global pandemic, the White House said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Calls on Somali Leaders to Resolve Dispute, Hold Elections - State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The United State has called upon Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmaajo and Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble to peacefully resolve their dispute so that elections can be held in the country, US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said.

"The dispute between President Farmaajo and Prime Minister Roble risks complicating [the election] process and needs to be resolved immediately and peacefully... Based on our shared interest to ensure the electoral process moves forward, we call on the President and the Prime Minister to avoid further provocative statements or actions and to resolve their disagreement over personnel appointments and their respective authorities peacefully," Price said in a statement on Monday.

On Friday, Farmaajo announced that Roble's executive powers were suspended as tensions escalated between the two leaders in the buildup to elections, Somali media reported.

The United Nations, European Union and a number of countries have since asked the two officials to preserve stability in Somalia.

Price said any further delay in holding the elections increases the chance for the Al-Shabaab terror group (banned in Russia) and other extremist groups to destabilize Somalia. Completing the electoral process will help advance the counter-terrorism agenda, he added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Up to 70% of World Population Can Be Vaccinated Against COVID-19 By 2023 - World Bank Head

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - Up to 70% of the world population can be vaccinated against COVID-19 by the end of 2022 if the delivery of vaccine doses can be accelerated by donor nations to the countries that need them most, World Bank President David Malpass said in an interview with CNBC.

"By the end of this year, we'd like to see 40% vaccinated, and by the end of next year, 60% or even 70% vaccinated (across) the world," Malpass said on Monday. "But the challenge is what you do in October, November and December. The countries need advance notice of which vaccines are going to be arriving. And that's been a big challenge, the transparency of their delivery schedules. We have called on the manufacturers to try and make that more clear."

Malpass, who also serves as chairman of a global task force of multilateral agencies coordinating vaccine deliveries, said his focus was on getting the doses supplied as quickly as possible to the developing world where they were in short supply.

"The critical thing is for the advanced economies ... that have committed to the donations to accelerate the delivery schedules," he said. "We've advocated that they swap their near-term deliveries that they don't need - the data shows there's 2.5 million excess doses that's going to

be coming online in the advanced economies - and so the critical thing is to take the early delivery schedules and make them available to developing countries."

While huge vaccine donations have been announced, the reality of the situation was that actual deliveries into the developing world have been small, resulting in only 2% of vaccinations, Malpass said.

"The good news is there's a huge amount of volume of production from the advanced economies side. We were talking about even by the end of this year, billions of doses," he added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russian Embassy in US Says Duma Vote Held in Accordance With Domestic, International Laws

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - Russia's Duma elections were held in full accordance with domestic and international laws, the Russian Embassy said in response to the Biden administration's accusations about the vote.

Earlier in the day, the US State Department claimed Russia's Duma elections took place under conditions not conducive to free and fair proceedings.

"We emphasize: the popular will was held in full accordance with the regulations of domestic law and international law," the embassy said on Monday. "Any insinuations about the opposite are unacceptable."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russian Embassy Says Half of All Cyber Attacks During Election Came From US

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) -Half of all cyber attacks against Russia's Central Election Commission during the parliamentary election over the weekend have been traced to originate in the United States and were aimed at discrediting the electoral system, the Russian Embassy in Washington said in a statement.

"We note that during the current election, the Central Election Commission faced an unprecedented number of cyber attacks. At the same time, 50% of them are recorded from the United States. The purpose of such hacks is to discredit our electoral system," the statement said on Monday.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Arrives in New York for UN General Assembly Meeting

NEW YORK, September 20 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden arrived in New York City on Monday evening to participate in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting. Upon arrival, Biden is expected to hold a meeting with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Biden is expected to deliver a speech at the high-level UNGA week on Tuesday morning. He is scheduled to provide his national address after Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, whose country has earned the right to open the debate.

White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said Biden plans to make clear during his speech that the United States is not seeking a confrontation with China and any other country.

On Wednesday, Biden will invite world leaders to participate in COVID-19 summit on the margins of the UNGA meeting. The leaders will discuss opportunities of cooperation to defeat the global pandemic, the White House said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

SPUTNIK TOP STORIES OF THE DAY

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) -

RUSSIA ELECTIONS

* The United Russia ruling party gained a constitutional majority in the parliamentary elections but slightly worsened its 2016 result, the Russian Central Election Commission (CEC)'s chairwoman, Ella Pamfilova, said on Monday.

* A total of 491,188 observers worked at the parliamentary elections in Russia, Pamfilova said.

* China believes that the results of Russia's parliamentary elections reflect the will of the Russian people, and is ready to always support Russia's choice of its path of development, the foreign ministry's spokesman, Zhao Lijian, said.

* Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) delegation highly appreciated "good" cooperation with the Russian authorities and "generally smooth" voting at the parliamentary elections held in Russia, the organization said in a statement.

* The US State Department announced that Russia's elections for the State Duma took place under conditions "not conducive to free and fair proceedings."

* The Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) does not recognize the results of the parliamentary elections in Moscow's single-mandate constituencies because of the electronic voting system used there, party leader Gennady Zyuganov said.

PERM UNIVERSITY SHOOTING

* The shooting at the university in Perm should be assessed by law enforcement agencies, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

* According to updated information, six people were killed in the shooting in Russia's Perm State University, while 24 others are receiving medical assistance after the incident, the ministry of health said.

- * US Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan expressed his condolences to the families of the victims of the shooting at Perm University.

- * Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking about the deadly shooting in Perm, said that this was a huge disaster for the whole country and any condolences would not be able to drown out the bitterness and pain of loss.

US COURT DECISION ON YAROSHENKO

- * A US federal court ruled against the motion for a compassionate release of Russian citizen Konstantin Yaroshenko from prison, his lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik on Monday.

- * The next step in the case of Yaroshenko, may include a request by Moscow to transfer him to Russia under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Tarasov told Sputnik.

- * Family of US citizen Paul Whelan, imprisoned in Russia, said it does not see any possible connections between his and Yaroshenko's cases.

AFGHANISTAN DEVELOPMENTS

- * US President Joe Biden was briefed on Friday about the Central Command report about the deadly drone attack in Kabul and supports the continuing investigation into the circumstances of the tragedy that resulted in 10 civil casualties, including seven children, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Monday.

- * A Qatar Airways' flight with 21 US citizens and 48 legal permanent residents departed the Kabul airport over the weekend as part of the ongoing evacuation operation from Afghanistan, the State Department said.

- * The Uzbek authorities are currently not engaged in negotiations with the United Nations about Afghan refugees, special presidential envoy for Afghanistan, Ismatulla Irgashev, told Sputnik

COVID-19

- * The United States will require US-bound foreign travelers to be fully vaccinated for the novel coronavirus starting in November, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday

- * India will resume coronavirus vaccine export under the governmental Vaccine Friendship initiative in October in order to fulfill its COVAX commitments, Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said.

- * Russian President Vladimir Putin will not participate in the global summit on the coronavirus hosted by the United States, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

US-UK-AUSTRALIA DEFENSE PACT

- * US President Joe Biden asked to speak with French President Emmanuel Macron following tension caused by a nuclear submarine deal made by the trilateral AUKUS pact comprising Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States that undermined a prior submarine deal between Canberra and Paris, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

- * The United States does not intend to share its nuclear-powered submarine technology with other countries besides Australia, a senior US administration official said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

PREVIEW - UN General Assembly Convenes Tuesday In New York City for Week of High-Level Debates

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - The UN Headquarters opens its doors on Tuesday for many world leaders and top officials coming in-person to New York City for the annual high-level General Assembly week.

More than 100 top countries' officials are expected to participate in the UN gathering this year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which in 2020, forced the event into a fully virtual format. The first day of the general debate will see the visit of US President Joe Biden, accompanied by Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The US leader is scheduled to deliver his national address after Brazilian counterpart Jair Bolsonaro, whose country has earned the right to open the debate for always volunteering to speak first during the UN's early years.

On the sidelines of the General Assembly, Biden will convene a virtual conference on September 22 focused on scaling up international response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Tuesday, world leaders will also convene for a ministerial summit dubbed "Safeguarding the achievements of 20 years of international engagement in Afghanistan." The situation in the country has been a priority issue on the United Nations' agenda since the Taliban (banned in Russia) swept to power in mid-August.

The list of the General Assembly's in-person participants on Tuesday also includes Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Qatari Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, South Korean leader Moon Jae-in and Polish President Andrzej Duda.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Chinese leader Xi Jinping and President of Egypt Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, scheduled to speak on the first day of the general debate as well, will do so through pre-recorded video messages to be broadcast in the General Assembly Hall.

On Wednesday, the leaders of Venezuela, Tunisia, Jordan and Ukraine, among many others, will deliver their remarks at the United Nations in person.

The following days of the general debate will welcome high-level participants from Libya, Israel, Lebanon, Germany, Palestine, Japan, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Australia, India, Canada, Haiti, Iraq, Belarus, Yemen, United Arab Emirates, Syria, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Myanmar and Afghanistan.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, arriving in New York this week, will address the General Assembly on Saturday, September 25.

During his visit, the top Russian diplomat will take part in the ministerial Wednesday meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States - which will be attended by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

The UN chief and Lavrov had already agreed to hold a bilateral meeting on the margins of the General Assembly later this week.

The Russian Foreign Minister will also participate in a high-level meeting of the UN Security Council on climate and security that will take place on Thursday.

Amid public concerns over the potential of the high-level week to become a COVID-19 super-spreader event, the United States, as the host country, has offered to set up a COVID-19 testing and vaccination site upon the entry to the United Nations.

The City of New York had issued a requirement last week ordering all delegates who try to access the UN General Assembly Hall to show proof of vaccination.

The order provoked concerns by some member states regarding their ability to participate in one of the most significant diplomatic gatherings in a year given that not all countries have been able to procure COVID-19 vaccines or utilize the ones authorized in the United States.

Security on Manhattan's east side is tight as the New York Police Department has closed the streets and constructed security checkpoints around the UN compound. The measures are expected to cause a major gridlock in New York, the first of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic silenced the city.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

CDC Recommends Admitting Afghan Refugees 21 Days After Measles Vaccine - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that the Biden administration admit Afghan refugees 21 days after they get vaccinated against measles, Politico reported on Monday.

The period of 21 days is necessary to develop immunity among vaccine recipients. As of today, about 60 percent of Afghan evacuees residing at US military bases overseas have been inoculated against measles, according to a memorandum obtained by the magazine. The memorandum also said that 127 migrants have been quarantined at Holloman Air Force Base in the US state of New Mexico after being exposed to measles.

The suspension of flights to the United States comes amid rising tensions at overseas military bases hosting Afghan refugees who increasingly request medical care, food and clothes, according to the report.

Officials at the departments of State and Defense are considering transporting the Afghan evacuees from overseas sites on a rolling basis after they reach measles immunity or issuing waivers for those who have received the vaccine in the past, the report said.

On September 10, the United States halted all inbound flights with Afghan refugees after 4 individuals tested positive for measles. Last week, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said that a total of seven cases have been confirmed to date among the Afghan refugees across all military sites - in the United States and overseas.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US COVID-19 Deaths Exceed 675,000, Surpasses Toll From 1918 Flu Pandemic - Johns Hopkins

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The number of novel coronavirus-related deaths in the United States has surpassed 675,000, overtaking the 1918 flu pandemic as the deadliest disease to hit the country, data from the Johns Hopkins University revealed on Monday afternoon.

The US coronavirus death toll reached 675,446 by Monday afternoon, data showed.

The flu pandemic from 1918 to 1919 killed about 675,000 people in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Researchers at the University of Washington project that an additional 100,000 Americans will die during the forthcoming winter.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE 2 - Wall Street Ends Down 2% on China Worry; Tech Stocks Lose Most Since May

NEW YORK, September 20 (Sputnik) - Wall Street's three main stock indexes fell about 2% each on Monday, with the Big Tech sector booking out its worst loss since May, as worries about a China debt crisis triggered a global flight to safety among investors.

The Nasdaq Composite Index, led by Big Tech names such as Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, closed down 330 points, or 2.2%, at 14,714 after falling more than 3% at the day's lows. The last time the Nasdaq closed down more than 2% on a day was on May 12, when it lost 2.7%.

The blue-chip S&P 500 and broad-based Dow Jones Industrial Average indexes tumbled as well.

The S&P 500, which groups the top 500 stocks on the New York Stocks Exchange, settled down 73 points, or 1.7%, at 4,360.

The Dow, comprising mostly industrial stocks, finished down 615 points, or 1.8%, at 33,970.

Stocks plunged as a growing debt crisis at major Chinese property group Evergrande sparked concerns about spillover risks in the world's second-largest economy.

"It just seems all the headlines to start the trading week are bearish," said Ed Moya, an analyst at online trading platform OANDA. "Letting Evergrande fail would send the market the right signal that China is serious about controlling debt, but Beijing will likely support whatever is necessary to avoid sending shock waves through their financial system."

Caution ahead of the Federal Reserve's monthly decision on interest rates and other policy matters also weighed on US equities.

The Fed's Federal Open Market Committee, or FOMC, begins a two-day meeting on Tuesday and Chairman Jay Powell will hold a news conference on Wednesday to elaborate on decisions made by the committee. The FOMC is not expected to amend interest rates which it has held at around zero since the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. But Chairman Powell could lay out the central bank's plans to taper its \$120 billion of monthly bonds and asset purchases that have juiced stock prices over the last 18 months.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Canada's Election Frontrunners Cast Ballots as Vote Enters Final Hours

TORONTO, September 20 (Sputnik) - Canada's election frontrunners, sitting Prime Minister and Liberal head Justin Trudeau and Conservative leader Erin O'Toole, cast their ballots on Monday. Canada's 44th federal election is underway on Monday. Voting began at 8:30 a.m. local time (11:00 a.m. GMT) in Newfoundland and Labrador and will come to a close in British Columbia at 7 p.m. local time (2 a.m. GMT).

Trudeau, Canada's 23rd prime minister, was accompanied by his three children as he cast a ballot in Montreal, Quebec.

Meanwhile, O'Toole, in the presence of his wife, cast his vote in Bowmanville, Ontario, which is an hour's drive east of Toronto.

Both frontrunners later issued messages via Twitter encouraging Canadians to vote.

A record 5.78 million Canadians have already cast early ballots, representing an 18.46% increase in advance voting when compared to 2019, Elections Canada said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US State Department Recommends Increasing Refugee Cap From 62,500 to 125,000 by 2022

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The US State Department is recommending the United States increase its yearly refugee admissions cap from 62,500 to 125,000 next year to address global displacement and humanitarian needs, agency spokesperson Ned Price said on Monday.

"The Report to Congress recommends an increase in the refugee admissions target from 62,500 in Fiscal Year 2021 to 125,000 in Fiscal Year 2022 to address needs generated by humanitarian crises around the globe," Price said in a press release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Texas Governor Asks Biden to Declare Federal Emergency in Response to Border Crisis

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - Texas Governor Greg Abbott on Monday sent a letter to US President Joe Biden asking him to declare a federal emergency in the state in response to the migrant crisis on the border with Mexico.

"I request an emergency declaration for the State of Texas as a result of the ongoing border crisis, which reached such magnitude and duration, that on May 31, 2021, I formally recognized

the disaster and it continues to escalate as evidenced by the dire situation in Val Verde County," Abbott said in the letter.

Abbott said the surge of migrants that illegally crossed into the United States in Del Rio, Texas, increased from about 4,000 on Wednesday to more than 16,000 on Saturday. The influx poses life-threatening risks to residents in the region and is quickly overwhelming law enforcement resources, he said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House to Pass Bill to Fund Gov't. Until 2022, Suspend Debt Limit Until 2023 - Speaker

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The US House of Representatives will pass legislation to fund the US government through December to avoid a shutdown and will suspend the federal debt limit through 2022, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Monday.

"This week, the House of Representatives will pass legislation to fund the government through December of this year to avoid a needless government shutdown that would harm American families and our economic recovery before the September 30 deadline," Pelosi said via Twitter. "[A]n extension of government funding through December will provide an appropriate amount of time for [the] bipartisan, bicameral process to come to completion."

The legislation will include the Biden administration's request to provide emergency funding to help those devastated by the recent natural disasters as well as to help resettle Afghan evacuees in the United States, Pelosi added.

"We believe a suspension of the debt limit through December 2022 would provide an amount of time commensurate with the debt incurred as a result of passing last winter's bipartisan \$908 billion emergency COVID-19 relief legislation," Pelosi said.

The legislation will also include a suspension of the debt limit through December 2022 to once again meet US federal government obligations and protect the full faith and credit of the United States, she added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Whelan's Family Says Does Not See Connection Between His, Yaroshenko's Cases

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – Family of US citizen Paul Whelan, imprisoned in Russia, said on Monday it does not see any possible connections between his and Russian national Konstantin Yaroshenko's cases.

Earlier on Monday, a US court denied the motion of Yaroshenko, who is serving a prison term in the US, for a compassionate release. His lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik that a swap deal of the two prisoners on a humanitarian basis would be a possible next step for Moscow and Washington.

"I don't really see any connection between Mr. Yaroshenko's case and Paul's," Whelan's brother David Whelan told Sputnik when asked about his attitude on a possible exchange. "I don't know of anyone in either the US or Russian government who has ever suggested such an exchange, so it's hard to estimate possibilities without more information."

David Whelan expressed regrets that Yaroshenko's motion was denied.

"While every family wants their family member released, I'm sure it's especially on hard on partners and children like his wife and daughter," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said after the summit with his US counterpart Joe Biden earlier this year that they raised the issue of prisoner exchange as an area in which compromises could be found between Russia and the United States.

Yaroshenko was arrested in Liberia in 2010 on suspicion of drug trafficking and was later extradited to the United States. In 2011, a US court sentenced Yaroshenko to 20 years in prison for allegedly taking part in a conspiracy to smuggle a large amount of drugs into the United States. Yaroshenko pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.

Paul Whelan was arrested in Russia in December 2018. A court in Moscow sentenced him to 16 years in prison on espionage charges last June.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Fed Accepts Record \$1.218 Trillion in Reverse Repurchase of Assets

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The Federal Reserve has accepted a record of more than \$1.2 trillion in reverse repurchase of assets linked to its stimulus support for the economy, data from the New York chapter of the Fed showed Monday.

Volume in the central bank's reverse repurchase facility was at \$1.218 trillion as investors and financial institutions poured cash into the facility.

Demand for the Fed's so-called reverse repo facility has surged as US debt nears its ceiling, the Treasury pares its bill issuance and financial firms struggle to find places to invest their excess cash.

The financial system is awash with about \$4 trillion in reserves, which are rising in part because of the central bank's asset purchases, the drop in Treasury bill issuance and a rapid drawdown in the government's store of funds at the Fed. The Treasury General Account has dropped by more than \$1 trillion since last fall.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak of March 2020, the Fed has pumped more than \$2 trillion into the financial system via a monthly purchase of \$120 billion worth of bonds and other assets.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US House to Pass Bill to fund Gov't Till 2022, Suspend Debt Limit Until 2023 – Speaker

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – The House of Representatives is going to pass by bipartisan agreement a bill to fund the US government through December to avoid a shutdown and will suspend the federal debt limit through 2022, Speaker Nancy Pelosi said on Monday. "This week, the House of Representatives will pass legislation to fund the government through December of this year to avoid a needless government shutdown that would harm American families and our economic recovery before the September 30 deadline," Pelosi said in a tweet. "(A)n extension of government funding through December will provide an appropriate amount of time for [the] bipartisan, bicameral process to come to completion."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Two People Shot at Virginia High School, Taken to Hospital - Police Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - Two individuals were shot during an incident at a high school in Newport News, Virginia and subsequently taken to the hospital for treatment, the Newport News Police Department said on Monday.

"Two people were taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds that are not believed to be life-threatening," the police department said in a statement about the incident.

The two victims are a 17-year old male and a 17-year old female, the police added. They also said that two other individuals were taken to the hospital with non-gunshot injuries related to the evacuation of the school that followed the shooting.

The police department said that there is no suspect in custody at this time, that the suspect is no longer at the school, and that the investigation is ongoing.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam said in a tweet that he is in close contact with first responders at the school. US Senator from Virginia Mark Warner similarly stated in a tweet that he is monitoring reports of the shooting.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Military Attack Struck Al-Qaeda Terrorist Leader in Syria - Pentagon

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The US military carried out a successful airstrike in Syria against a senior al-Qaeda (banned in Russia) leader, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said on Monday.

"A strike in Idlib, Syria, against a senior al-Qaeda leader, the initial indications are they struck the individual that they were targeting and that they don't have any indications at this time of civilian casualties," Kirby said during a press briefing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Pentagon Says Received Call to Help Transport Migrants That Surged Texas-Mexico Border

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The Department of Defense received a request from US immigration enforcement agencies to help them transport an influx of asylum-seeking migrants that arrived in the Texas border town of Del Rio over the last several days, Pentagon spokesperson Christian Mitchell told Sputnik on Monday.

"The Department has received a request for transportation support from the Department of Homeland Security/US Customs and Border Protection (DHS/CBP)," Mitchell said. "Under this request, DoD would provide contracted air transportation for CBP on a reimbursable basis to temporarily supplement CBP efforts to move non-US citizen migrants from Del Rio, Texas, to other domestic CBP processing facilities."

If the request is approved, the Department of Defense will provide support until October 20, Mitchell said.

Nearly 13,000 migrants, mostly from Haiti, arrived to the Texas border town of Del Rio along the US-Mexico border over the last week. The migrants waited to be processed in a makeshift camp under an overpass bridge. The situation forced the federal government to shut down the Del Rio port of entry, which still remains closed.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said during a press conference on Monday that some 6,500 migrants have been removed from the encampment and sent to CBP facilities to be processed and deported.

Mayorkas said an additional 600 immigration enforcement agents have arrived to Del Rio to enhance capabilities and more will be sent if needed.

CBP Chief Raul Ortiz said smugglers are significant drivers of misinformation that caused the surge of migrants arriving at the border. Ortiz clarified that Haitians living in the United States prior to July 29 are the only ones eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), all others will be turned away.

Mayorkas emphasized that the US border is not open, adding that the dangerous journey is not worth their money and effort.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden to Hold Call With French President in 'Coming Days' - White House

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden will hold a telephone call with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron in the coming days, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Monday.

"The President will have a call with President Macron in the coming days," Psaki said at a press briefing. "He [Biden] of course will discuss recent developments and our [US-French] ongoing

work together on a range of issues, certainly our shared interest in the Indo-Pacific, but also a range of global challenges and issues."

On Wednesday, Biden announced a new defense partnership with Australia and the United Kingdom to protect the three countries' interests in the Indo-Pacific. The partnership entails the United States supplying Australia with nuclear powered submarines and the latter quitting a previous deal with France concerning submarines in the amount of \$66 billion. France said the move is tantamount to a stab in the back and recalled its ambassadors from Washington and Canberra.

Psaki said the Biden administration has no plans to abandon the new deal to supply nuclear powered submarines to Australia.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Refugees Chief Tells Sputnik Global Community Must Avoid Afghanistan's 'Implosion'

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told Sputnik on Monday the international community must avoid the collapse of Afghanistan in order to prevent the mass exodus of refugees from the country.

"If the country implodes, then yes," Grandi said when asked whether the United Nations expects refugees to start fleeing Afghanistan. "That is why we have to avoid that implosion."

Last week, Grandi, in an interview with the Associated Press, said the global community will need to support a government led by the Taliban (banned in Russia) to keep Afghanistan "stable and viable."

The Afghan economy facing collapse since the Taliban takeover in mid-August led to automatic suspensions of a myriad of international aid, which the US-backed government had come to rely on, and freezing of Afghan assets abroad. The International Monetary Fund also blocked an automatic payout of \$460 million and suspended the country's special drawing rights in August. In an interview with Sputnik last week, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said it was critical to create mechanisms to inject cash into Afghanistan's economy to avoid its collapse and a massive outflow of refugees that could destabilize the entire region.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Martyshev Spent 3 Weeks in Confinement in US After Illicit Item Found in Cell - Lawyer

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – Russian national Yuriy Martyshev, jailed in the United States on charges of computer hacking, had to spend about three weeks in solitary confinement after prison authorities found a prohibited item in his cell, Martyshev's lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik on Monday.

"There was an issue in the facility where Martyshev was recently placed into segregation over allegations of disciplinary infractions," Tarasov said.

The incident took place over a month ago, the authorities found a flash drive or a card for a mobile phone, the lawyer explained.

"Obviously no indication that this item has ever belonged to him or was ever utilized," he added. The issue has been resolved and did not have significant impact on Martyshev's psychological state, Tarasov noted. "He is in a good mood and hopeful to be released next year," he explained.

In April 2019, a US federal court sentenced Martyshev to 78 months in jail on charges of computer hacking.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sanctions 7 Central American Officials Over Alleged Corruption - Blinken

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The United States has sanctioned seven Central American officials, including Guatemala's Attorney General, over alleged corruption, US State Secretary Antony Blinken announced on Monday.

"Today we are adding seven perpetrators to the United States' Undemocratic and Corrupt Actors list, under section 353 of the United States–Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, which generally makes the perpetrators ineligible for visas and admission to the United States," Blinken said in a statement.

Blinken pointed out that the United States is committed to supporting the people of northern Central America by fortifying democracy, rule of law and accountability, which he said are the keys to a brighter future.

"To advance this priority, today we are adding seven perpetrators to the United States' Undemocratic and Corrupt Actors list, under section 353 of the United States–Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, which generally makes the perpetrators ineligible for visas and admission to the United States," the statement said.

In El Salvador, the US government sanctioned Elsy Duenas De Aviles, Oscar Alberto Lopez Jerez, Hector Nahun Martinez Garcia, Jose Angel Perez Chacon, and Luis Javier Suarez Magana, who are current Magistrates of the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court, the statement said.

The magistrates undermined democratic processes or institutions by accepting direct appointments to the Chamber by the Legislative Assembly, in a process that appears to have contravened the Salvadoran constitution, the statement also said.

The previous five Magistrates were abruptly removed without legitimate cause following the May 1 seating of the newly elected Legislative Assembly," the statement added.

In Guatemala, the US government sanctioned Maria Consuelo Porras Argueta De Porres, current Attorney General, who, according to Washington "obstructed investigations into acts of corruption by interfering with criminal investigations," the statement said.

Also Guatemala's Angel Arnoldo Pineda Avila, current Secretary General of the MP, "obstructed investigations into acts of corruption by interfering in anticorruption probes," and was also sanctioned, the statement added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Briefed on CENTCOM Report on Kabul Drone Strike, Backs Probe - White House

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – US President Joe Biden was briefed on Friday about the Central Command report about the deadly drone attack in Kabul and supports the continuing investigation into the circumstances of the tragedy that resulted in 10 civil casualties, including seven children, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Monday.

"The President [Biden] was briefed on Friday morning, about the report [on the drone strike] that was going to be released," Psaki said at a press briefing. "The investigation that will continue is something the President broadly supports."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Sanctions 7 Central American Officials Over Alleged Corruption - Blinken

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The United States has sanctioned seven Central American officials, including Guatemala's Attorney General, over alleged corruption, US State Secretary Antony Blinken announced on Monday.

"Today we are adding seven perpetrators to the United States' Undemocratic and Corrupt Actors list, under section 353 of the United States–Northern Triangle Enhanced Engagement Act, which generally makes the perpetrators ineligible for visas and admission to the United States," Blinken said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden to Make Clear US Not Seeking Cold War With China in Speech at UNGA - White House

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – In his speech at the United Nations General Assembly, US President Joe Biden will make clear that Washington is not seeking a Cold War relationship with China amid ongoing tensions in the relationship between the two countries, White House spokesperson Jen Psaki said on Monday.

"The President [Biden] will deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly, and he will make absolutely clear that he is not looking to pursue a future new Cold War with any country in the world," Psaki said when asked to comment on a possibility of a Cold War with Beijing.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Blinken, Di Maio Discuss Efforts to Mobilize Global Response to COVID Pandemic

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - US State Secretary Antony Blinken and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio have discussed the collaboration of both nations to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, the US State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Monday. "Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke with Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio today. Secretary Blinken and Foreign Minister Di Maio discussed U.S. and Italian collaboration to mobilize an effective global response to the COVID-19 pandemic," the statement said. The discussion came amid reports that the US government would relax its travel restrictions for vaccinated people from the European Union and the United Kingdom beginning in November.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Next Step in Yaroshenko Case May Include Moscow Request Under Transfer Convention - Lawyer

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The next step in the case of Russian national Konstantin Yaroshenko, who is serving a prison sentence in the United States, may include a request by Moscow to transfer him to Russia under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons, Yaroshenko's lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik on Monday. "I think the next stage, if something is going to happen, it maybe a request by the Russian government to have Yaroshenko transferred under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons," Tarasov said after a US federal court denied Yaroshenko's motion for compassionate release. Tarasov said the US court's decision has a broader impact because it also undermines an opportunity to effectuate a possible exchange of prisoners between Russia and the United States on humanitarian basis. "The judge concluded that none of the medical issues that Yaroshenko experiences have been listed by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as causing or likely to cause an increased risk for severe COVID-19 illness," he said. Tarasov noted that Yaroshenko filed the motion at the end of 2020. "There is not much that we can do at this stage. The decision is to deny and that means that Yaroshenko has no opportunity to return to his homeland based on the risk of COVID-19," he said. Tarasov also said the US court pointed out in its decision that Yaroshenko's case was one of the largest narcotics operations they have seen.

The lawyer said he spoke with Yaroshenko last week and said he was not feeling well in part because of the uncertainty of what may happen to him in addition to his medical issues. Russian President Vladimir Putin said after the summit with his US counterpart Joe Biden earlier this year that they raised the issue of prisoner exchange as an area in which compromises could be found between Russia and the United States.

Yaroshenko was arrested in Liberia in 2010 on suspicion of drug trafficking and was later extradited to the United States. In 2011, a US court sentenced Yaroshenko to 20 years in prison for allegedly taking part in a conspiracy to smuggle a large amount of drugs into the United States. Yaroshenko pleaded not guilty to the charges against him.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UPDATE - Wall Street Down 2% on China Worry; Tech Stocks Head for Worst Loss in 7 Months

NEW YORK, September 20 (Sputnik) - Wall Street's three main stock indexes fell about 2% or more on Monday, with the Big Tech sector headed for its worst loss in seven months, as worries about a China debt crisis triggered a global flight to safety among investors.

The Nasdaq Composite Index, led by Big Tech names such as Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, was down 405 points, or 2.7%, to 14,640 by 1:05 p.m. ET (17:05 GMT). It was the worst one-day sell-off on the technology barometer since February 25, when the Nasdaq fell 3.5%.

The blue-chip S&P 500 and broad-based Dow Jones Industrial Average indexes tumbled as well.

The S&P 500, which groups the top 500 stocks on the New York Stocks Exchange, fell 101 points, or 2.3%, to 4,332.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, comprising mostly industrial stocks, lost 781 points, or 2.3%, to 33,803.

Stocks plunged as a growing debt crisis at major Chinese property group Evergrande sparked concerns about spillover risks in the world's second-largest economy.

Caution ahead of the Federal Reserve's monthly decision on interest rates and other policy matters also weighed on US equities.

The central bank's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) begins a two-day meeting on Tuesday and Chairman Jay Powell will hold a news conference on Wednesday to elaborate on the reached decisions. The FOMC is not expected to amend interest rates that it has held at around zero since the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. However, Powell could lay out the Federal Reserve's plans to taper its \$120 billion of monthly bonds and asset purchases that have juiced stock prices over the last 18 months.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

UN Chief Calls for Decisive Action to Avert 'Climate Catastrophe' Ahead of Glasgow Summit

UNITED NATIONS, September 20 (Sputnik) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday called on world leaders to step up with a decisive action at the upcoming Climate Change Conference (COP26) to prevent a global climate collapse.

Earlier on Monday, Guterres met in New York with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson for an informal roundtable on climate action ahead of the COP26 that will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, between October 31 and November 12.

"I convened this meeting with Prime Minister Johnson for a very simple reason. It is a wake-up call to instill a sense of urgency on the dire state of the climate process ahead of COP26," Guterres said. "My message this morning, and to the Conference of Parties in November, is that we need decisive action now to avert climate catastrophe."

Guterres said the global community must deliver on three fronts - keeping temperature rise to 1.5-degree within reach, delivering on the \$100 billion a year for climate action in developing countries and scaling up funds for adaptation.

The UN chief also noted countries need to achieve a "dramatic" improvement in Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce national emissions. Developed countries, especially G20 nations, must set the example.

"Governments must shift subsidies away from fossil fuels and progressively phase out coal use. [The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development] nations need to end coal use by 2030. Developing nations need to follow suit by 2040," Guterres said.

In addition, Guterres called to support adapting to the impacts of climate change in developing nations. He pointed out, adaptation measures now cost \$70 billion a year in vulnerable countries and this number is expected to rise to \$300 billion by 2030.

"This is why I have been asking all donors and financiers to commit to allocating 50 per cent of climate finance to adaptation," he said.

Last week, a report by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change warned nations are on a "catastrophic pathway" to 2.7-degrees of heating and should cut their emissions by 45% by 2030 to reach carbon neutrality by mid-century.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Qatar Airways Flight With 21 US Citizens On-Board Departs Kabul - US State Dept.

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - A Qatar Airways' flight with 21 US citizens and 48 legal permanent residents departed the Kabul airport over the weekend as part of the ongoing evacuation operation from Afghanistan, the State Department said on Monday.

"We can confirm that a Qatar Airways flight departed from Kabul on Sunday, September 19th with 21 US citizens and 48 lawful permanent residents on board," the State Department said in a press release. "We will continue to help US citizens, lawful permanent residents and Afghans affiliated with the US government to depart Afghanistan."

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Clean Energy, Climate Change Announcements to Be Made at Friday Quad Meeting - US Official

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - Members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue — the US, Australia, India, and Japan — are expected to make announcements relating to clean energy and climate change following their meeting on Friday, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

"In addressing the climate crisis, there will be clean energy and climate-related announcements coming out of the Quad," the official said.

The group will also coordinate with one another on areas including the COVID-19 pandemic, cyberspace, emerging technologies, and high-standards infrastructure.

Attendees to the meeting, which will be the first in-person meeting of the group, will include Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Does Not Intend to Extend Nuclear-Powered Submarine Tech to Other Countries - Official

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The United States does not intend to share its nuclear-powered submarine technology with other countries besides Australia, a senior US administration official said on Monday.

The United States will provide Australia a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines as part of the newly-announced Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) defense pact created to enhance trilateral security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

"We don't have the intention of extending this to other countries, this is for Australia and it is based on a unique set of circumstances involving the Australian case," the official said during a conference call when asked if the deal sets a new precedent.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Biden Asked to Speak With France's Macron After AUKUS Fallout - Senior Official

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - US President Joe Biden asked to speak with French President Emmanuel Macron following tension caused by a nuclear submarine deal made by the trilateral AUKUS pact comprising Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States that

undermined a prior submarine deal between Canberra and Paris, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

"With respect to President Macron, the reports are correct that President Biden has asked to be able to speak with President Macron to talk about the way forward, to talk about his deep commitment to the US alliance with France – an alliance that has fostered security, stability, and prosperity around the world for decades. The President wants to communicate his desire to work with France in the Indo-Pacific and globally, and to talk about specific practical measures that we can undertake together," the senior administration official said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US to Require Foreign Travelers Be Fully Vaccinated Starting in November - Senior Official

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The United States will require US-bound foreign travelers to be fully vaccinated for the novel coronavirus starting in November, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday.

"Today the president announced that beginning in early November the United States will be putting in place strict protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 from passengers flying internationally into the United States by requiring that adult foreign nationals traveling here be fully vaccinated," the official said during a conference call.

This new measure will permit travel for foreign nationals coming from the European Union, the United Kingdom, Brazil and India, among other countries, the official said.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Wall Street Plunges on China Worry; US Big Tech Stocks Down Most Since May

NEW YORK, September 20 (Sputnik) - US stocks plunged Monday, with Wall Street's Big Tech sector losing its most in a day since May, as worries about a China debt crisis triggered a global flight to safety among investors.

The Nasdaq Composite Index, led by Big Tech names such as Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Netflix and Google, was down 308 points, or 2.1%, to 14,736 by 11:12 AM Eastern US Time (15:12 GMT). It was the worst one-day sell-off on the technology barometer since May 12.

The blue-chip S&P 500 and broad-based Dow Jones Industrial Average indexes tumbled as well. The S&P 500, which groups the top 500 stocks on the New York Stocks Exchange, fell 72 points, or 1.6%, to 4,361.

The Dow, comprising mostly industrial stocks, lost 525 points, or 1.5%, to 34,061.

Stocks plunged as a growing debt crisis at major Chinese property group Evergrande sparked concerns about spillover risks in the world's second-largest economy.

Caution ahead of the Federal Reserve's monthly decision on interest rates and other policy matters also weighed on US equities.

The Fed's Federal Open Market Committee, or FOMC, begins a two-day meeting on Tuesday and Chairman Jay Powell will hold a news conference on Wednesday to elaborate on decisions made by the committee. The FOMC is not expected to amend interest rates which it has held at around zero since the COVID-19 outbreak in March 2020. But Chairman Powell could lay out the central bank's plans to taper its \$120 billion of monthly bonds and asset purchases that have juiced stock prices over the last 18 months.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Russia's Duma Vote Was Under Conditions 'Not Conducive to Free And Fair Proceedings' - US

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The US State Department announced on Monday that Russia's elections for the State Duma — the lower house of parliament — took place under conditions "not conducive to free and fair proceedings."

The legislative elections took place on September 17-19. The State Duma is elected for a five-year term under a mixed electoral system — 225 lawmakers are elected on party lists, and another 225 on single-mandate constituencies in one round.

"The September 17-19 Duma elections in the Russian Federation took place under conditions not conducive to free and fair proceedings. The Russian government's use of laws on 'extremist organizations,' 'foreign agents,' and 'undesirable organizations' severely restricted political pluralism and prevented the Russian people from exercising their civil and political rights," the department said.

With 99% of the ballots counted, the United Russia party retains the lead with 49.82%. In 2016, it had slightly over 54%. United Russia is followed by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation with 19%, the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia with 7.49%, the Just Russia — For Truth party with 7.42% and the New People party with 5.35%.

Meanwhile, Chinese diplomats who observed the Russian parliamentary election have given a positive assessment of the vote, praising the organizers for their innovative and transparent approach. Jaber Habib Jaber, the League of Arab States (LAS)' envoy in Moscow and the head of the LAS observer mission also said that the vote was properly organized in line with the relevant legislative regulations.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Next Step in Yaroshenko Case May Include Moscow Transfer Request Under Convention – Lawyer

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – The next step in the case of Russian national Konstantin Yaroshenko, imprisoned in the US, may include a request from Moscow to transfer him under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners, Yaroshenko's lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik on Monday.

"I think the next stage, if something is going to happen, it maybe a request by the Russian government to have Yaroshenko transferred under the Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Prisoners," Tarasov said after the court from the Southern District of New York denied Yaroshenko's motion for compassionate release.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US Court Rules Against 'Compassionate Release' of Russia's Yaroshenko - Lawyer to Sputnik

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - A US federal court ruled against the motion for a compassionate release of Russian citizen Konstantin Yaroshenko from prison, his lawyer Alexey Tarasov told Sputnik on Monday.

"This morning we have received from the court from the [US District Court for the] Southern District of New York decision on Yaroshenko's motion for compassionate release. The decision is not to allow for a compassionate release of Konstantin Yaroshenko," Tarasov said.

The court's five-pages decision concluded that there are no extraordinary and compelling circumstances for the release of Yaroshenko, Tarasov added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US to Require Full Vaccinations of All Adult Foreign National Visitors – Reports

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) – The Biden administration will require all adult foreign nationals visiting the United States to be fully vaccinated against the COVID-19 vaccine US and United Kingdom media reports said on Monday.

The White House is expected to make the announcement later on Monday while reducing some restrictions on visitors from the European Union and the United Kingdom, the Financial Times reported earlier in the day.

The US government will require that adult foreign nationals traveling to the United States be fully vaccinated, another anonymous source told CNN. The new regulations will come into effect in November, the outlet said.

The Biden administration is making the changes as part of its efforts to improve relations with European nations that have developed in recent weeks over the controversial and rapid US evacuation from Afghanistan and a new US agreement with Australia to provide nuclear-powered submarines to replace an order France was expected to supply diesel subs, the report added.

This material is distributed by Ghebi LLC on behalf of Federal State Unitary Enterprise Rossiya Segodnya International Information Agency, and additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

US to Relax EU, UK Travel Restrictions for Vaccinated Passengers From November - Reports

WASHINGTON, September 20 (Sputnik) - The US government will relax its travel restrictions for vaccinated people from the European Union and the United Kingdom beginning in November, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

The new rule will be a part of a broader policy for international travel, the report said, citing a person familiar with the matter.

The Biden administration will announce its decision on relaxing the travel restrictions later on Monday, the report said.

The rule will allow all fully vaccinated people to travel between the United States, European Union and the United Kingdom along with those involved in clinical trials for vaccines not approved yet in the latter, the report added.

The Biden administration is currently developing a new broad policy related to all international travel restrictions, according to the report.